

From: Bert Altenburg
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/19/02 1:29pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse,

Microsoft is able to keep and abuse its monopoly due to the fact that its Office suite uses mainly proprietary file formats. If details about these formats were in the public domain, other companies could create easier to use and cheaper programs while maintaining file compatibility. That is, we would finally have a choice.

The file formats should be extendable by every company (using an open architecture, allowing for plug-ins), and Microsoft should be forced to implement any improvements in the form of plug-ins (and not change the file formats again). That is, other companies will be able to do more than just follow Microsoft: they can innovate, forcing Microsoft to start doing the same.

Your attention in this is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Bert Altenburg